

April 20, 1961

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

For the Meeting to be held in the
Cabinet Room of the White House
on Saturday, April 22, 1961,
at 10:00 a. m.

In addition to the Statutory Members and Advisers, the following are being invited to attend this meeting: The U. S. Representative to the United Nations; the Secretary of the Treasury; the Director, Bureau of the Budget; the Director, United States Information Agency; the Under Secretary of State; the Deputy Secretary of Defense; the Special Assistants to the President for National Security Affairs and for Science and Technology; the Counselor, Department of State; Assistant Secretary of Defense, Paul H. Nitze; the Military Aide to the President.

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

U. S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA

For discussion of future U. S. Policy in the light of recent events in Cuba.

SANITIZED VERSION NLK-76-140

RECORD OF ACTIONS
 by the
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
 at its
 FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-EIGHTH MEETING
 held on
April 22, 1961
 (Approved by the President on April 24, 1961)

The President presided at this meeting. The Secretary of the Treasury and the Director, Bureau of the Budget, participated in the actions below. The Attorney General; the Acting Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Director of Central Intelligence; The Director, U. S. Information Agency; the Under Secretary of State; the Deputy Secretary of Defense; the Secretary of the Army; the Secretary of the Navy; the Acting Secretary of the Air Force; the Deputy Under Secretary of State; the Counselor, Department of State; the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense; the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; the Executive Secretary, National Aeronautics and Space Council; General Maxwell Taylor; General David Gray, U. S. Army; the Deputy Director (Plans), Central Intelligence Agency; the Special Counsel to the President; the Special Assistants to the President for National Security Affairs and for Science and Technology; Mr. Bromley Smith, National Security Council; and the Acting Executive Secretary, National Security Council, attended the meeting. The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, and the Adviser to the President on Disarmament participated in NSC Action No. 2408. The Deputy to the Adviser to the President on Disarmament and the Deputy Director, U. S. Disarmament Administration, attended the meeting for NSC Action No. 2408.

ACTION
NUMBERSUBJECT2406. U. S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA

- a. Noted the President's view that there should be no further discussion outside the Government of the meaning of recent landings in Cuba, since the object now is to move forward.
- b. Noted the President's view that U. S. citizens in Cuba should be shortly advised again of the view of this Government that they should leave Cuba, and that at an appropriate time publicity should be given to this advice.

SANITIZED VERSION

2406. U. S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA (Continued)

Action Memo
sent to State
and Defense

d. Discussed the training of Cuban soldiers, and agreed that the question of possible forms of large-scale, open enlistment of Cuban soldiers should be studied by the Departments of State and Defense.

Action Memo
sent to HEW
and CIA

e. Discussed the support of refugees, and noted the President's directive that levels of support should be reported to him with recommendations for their improvement, and his desire that such support should be open and overt. The President also directed that the adjustment of Cubans to life in the United States should be given particular attention by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Action Memo
sent to State
and Defense

h. Noted the President's directive that the possibility be studied of creating a Caribbean Security Agency, to which we and the other Caribbean countries would contribute forces, and to whom any nation attacked could appeal for help.

2406. U. S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA (Continued)

Action Memo
sent to Justice
and CIA

i. Noted that the Attorney General and the Director of Central Intelligence would examine the possibility of stepping up coverage of Castro activities in the United States.

j. Noted that the Secretary of State had established an Operations Group in the Department under Ambassador Achilles, who would be responsible for all action with respect to the Cuban situation.

Action Memo,
sent to State

k. Noted the President's request that he and the Vice President receive from the Department of State prompt information as to which governments have been helpful in various parts of the Cuban crisis, and which unhelpful.

Action Memo
sent to Defense
and CIA

l. Noted the President's desire that a prompt and up-to-date report on Soviet assistance to Cuba be furnished by the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency to the Director, U. S. Information Agency, and the Department of State.

2407. STRENGTHENING THE BASIC U. S. POSTURE TOWARD THE COMMUNIST WORLD

Action Memo
sent to Defense
and OCDM

e. Discussed possible changes in the level of effort of the United States in the fields of military activity, foreign policy, civil defense, and para-military effort. The President announced his prospective appointment of General Maxwell Taylor to advise him with respect to ways and means of improving U. S. efforts in para-military, guerrilla and counter-guerrilla activities, in the light of recent experiences. It was agreed that the Department of Defense would review its military budget, and that the study of the civil defense posture of the United States should be expedited by the Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, in consultation with the Department of Defense and the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization.

2407. STRENGTHENING THE BASIC U. S. POSTURE TOWARD THE COMMUNIST WORLD
(Continued)

Action Memo
sent to
Defense

b. Noted the President's request to the Department of Defense for a prompt report to him on military planning for a possible crisis over Berlin.

Action Memo
sent to State,
Treasury,
Defense and CIA

c. Discussed the possibility of a large Contingency Freedom Fund to be administered under the direct supervision of the President. The President requested a preliminary report on the possible uses of such a fund for consideration at the next meeting of the NSC, and asked that this report be prepared by the Department of State in consultation with the Departments of the Treasury and Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency.

2408. THE GENEVA TEST BAN NEGOTIATIONS

Noted and discussed an interim report by Mr. McCloy on the current state of negotiations in Geneva for a nuclear test ban. It was agreed that Mr. Dean will soon be recalled for discussion, and that a strong preliminary US-UK effort should be made to create an effective international environment for a possible show-down on these negotiations.

2409. REVIEW OF U. S. SPACE PROGRAM

Noted the President's announcement of his request to the Vice President for a prompt report on ways and means of accelerating the U. S. space program, particularly the areas of advanced scientific research and very large boosters.